

LEGAL NOTICE

INITIATION OF SCOPING,

SHASTA AGNESS LANDSCAPE RESTORATION PROJECT.

The Gold Beach Ranger District of the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest is proposing a vegetation and watershed restoration project within the Shasta Costa Creek – Rogue River, the Stair Creek – Rogue River and a portion of the lower end of the Lawson Creek – Illinois River watersheds. We invite you to submit comments to help refine the proposed activities and to identify issues, concerns, and opportunities to be addressed in the environmental analysis of this proposal. This proposed project is intended to implement the forest's land management plan and is subject to the objection process specified in 36 CFR §218, subparts A and B.

The Shasta Agness Landscape Restoration project is located in Curry and Josephine County, Oregon, approximately 30 miles northeast of Gold Beach, Oregon, on the Gold Beach and Wild Rivers Ranger District. The three watersheds total approximately 95,000 acres. The overall purpose of the proposed actions in the Shasta Agness project area is to improve or maintain the quality of unique forest stands, accelerate late seral habitat characteristics, improve or restore aquatic and riparian habitat, and promote quality sustainable recreational opportunities. Management activities include: unique habitat restoration by restoring oak savannahs and woodlands, sugar pine and Jeffrey pine forest stands; accelerating development of later seral forest structure; improving water quality and habitat conditions in aquatic and riparian areas, and reducing hydrologic impacts of excess or poorly designed roads; and managing recreational opportunities and needs in a sustainable manner. Approximately 3250 to 7100 acres of unique habitat are proposed for treatment; approximately 1200 to 2000 acres of LSR acceleration are proposed for treatment; 37 miles of stream habitat are proposed for restoration; 21 miles of roads are proposed for changes in designation. Please see the scoping letter on the project website for more detailed information: www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=49607. If you have questions regarding this proposal, please contact Matt Timchak, team lead, by email msttimchak@fs.fed.us, or phone, (541) 247-3624.

Specific written comments, as defined by §218.2, should be within the scope of the proposed action, have a direct relationship to the proposed action, and must include supporting reasons for the responsible official to consider. In order to be eligible to file an objection, individuals and organizations must ensure that their specific written comments are received (or postmarked) within 30 calendar days after the publication of this legal notice in the Curry County Reporter and the Grants Pass Dailey Courier. Those who respond to this request for comments will be included in the mailing list to receive future updates for the project. An additional 30-day comment period will be provided when the environmental analysis is completed. Comments received, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on these proposed actions and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted; however, we will not be able to provide anonymous respondents with subsequent notices and environmental documents, and anonymous commenters will not be eligible to file objections (§218.8(c)).

Comments should be submitted by mail or fax to: Tina Lanier, District Ranger, c/o Matt Timchak, 29279 Ellensburg Ave., Gold Beach, OR, 97444, fax: (541) 247-3641. Electronic comments may be submitted to comments-pacificnorthwest-siskiyou-goldbeach@fs.fed.us and must use a format such as an email message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), or MS Word (.doc, .docx). Please state "Shasta Agness Landscape Project" in the subject line when providing electronic comments, or on the envelope when replying by mail. The office business hours for those submitting hand-delivered comments are: 8:00 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. An objection period, if required, will follow the requirements of 36 CFR §218, subparts A and B. Only those who have submitted timely, specific written comments during any designated opportunity for public comment may file an objection (§218.5). Issues to be raised in objections must be based on previously submitted specific written comments regarding the proposed project and attributed to the objector, unless the issue is based on new information that arose after a designated opportunity to comment (§218.8(c)).